

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for diagnosing the possibility of disease in a body part, the method comprising:

representing the body part with a grid having a plurality of finite elements;

using a model of the body part ~~, obtaining to obtain a baseline electrical property associated with each of the plurality of finite elements for each of a plurality of current injections obtained with an electrode array;~~

~~calculating a set of weights associated with a particular one of the plurality of finite elements, the set of weights consisting of a plurality of weight factors wherein each of the plurality of weight factors is associated with each of the plurality of each finite element has one weight factor for each current injections obtained with an electrode array, and each weight factor and wherein each of the plurality of weight factors is determined based on obtained from the current density in the particular one of the plurality of finite elements;~~

~~obtaining a baseline electrical property associated with each of the current injections;~~

computing a diagnostic for ~~for~~ ~~at~~ the particular one of the plurality of finite elements, ~~for each finite element wherein~~ the diagnostic is the sum over all of the plurality of current injections of the plurality of weight factors multiplied by a ~~the~~ ratio of the baseline electrical property to a measured electrical property impedance; and

utilizing the diagnostic to diagnose the possibility of disease in a location in the body part associated with the particular one of the plurality of finite elements, wherein a ~~the~~ higher ~~the~~ value of the sum of the diagnostic ~~,~~ represents a ~~the~~ higher ~~the~~ possibility of disease at the location ~~of the associated finite element.~~

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 1, wherein the measure electrical property is conditioned to compute the diagnostic.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of representing, the grid is a two dimensional grid.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein, in the step of representing, the grid is a three dimensional grid.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained using a numerical model or a physical model of the body part.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained using a control subject.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the baseline electrical property is obtained using a finite element method.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the baseline electrical property is a baseline impedance obtained by:

obtaining a baseline voltage; and

using the baseline voltage to compute the [[a]] baseline impedance.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 10, wherein, in the step of obtaining a baseline electrical property, the model of the body part assumes a non-uniform resistivity.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying a plurality of electrodes to the body part; and
obtaining the ~~[[a]]~~ measured electrical property of the body part with the plurality of electrodes.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~[[12]]~~, wherein the measured electrical property is obtained by ~~step of applying includes:~~

applying n_{CI} current injection electrode pairs on the body part, where n_{CI} is an integer greater than zero; and

applying n_{CI} voltage measurement electrode pairs on the body part,
wherein each of the current injection electrode pairs is associated with one of the n_{CI} voltage measurement electrode pairs.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the step of obtaining the ~~[[a]]~~ measured electrical property includes:

injecting a first current between a first pair of the n_{CI} current injection electrode pairs;

measuring a ~~[[the]]~~ resultant voltage difference V_1^M between a ~~[[the]]~~ voltage measurement electrode pair associated with the first current injection electrode pair of the ~~n_{CI} current injection electrode pairs;~~

repeating the preceding two steps of injecting and measuring with all ~~[[the]]~~ other electrode pairs until ~~[[all]]~~ n_{CI} voltage differences, $\{V_1^M, V_2^M, \dots, V_{n_{CI}}^M\}$ are obtained; and

using the n_{CI} voltage differences to obtain associated measured impedances, $\{Z_1^M, Z_2^M, \dots, Z_{n_{CI}}^M\}$, where Z_j^M is a ~~[[the]]~~ measured impedance obtained by using a ~~[[the]]~~ j^{th} current injection electrode pair and the voltage measurement electrode pair associated therewith.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 14, wherein ~~[[,]]~~ if the particular one of the ~~finite elements~~ is identified as a ~~[[the]]~~ k^{th} finite element and the set of weights is

denoted by $\{w_{1k}, w_{2k}, \dots, w_{n_{cl}k}\}_{\pm}$ where w_{ik} is a weight factor associated with the k^{th} finite element and i^{th} current injection electrode pair, then the step of calculating obtaining a set of weights $\{w_{ik}\}$ includes:

using the model of the body part to obtain a set of current densities, $\{J_{1k}, J_{2k}, \dots, J_{n_{cl}k}\}$, where J_{ik} is a current density at the k^{th} finite element when current is injected between the i^{th} current injection electrode pair; and

obtaining the set of weights using the relation

$$w_{ik} = \frac{J_{ik}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n_{cl}} J_{jk}}.$$

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein the step of obtaining a baseline electrical property includes:

using the model of the body part to obtain a set of baseline impedances $\{Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_{n_{cl}}\}_{\pm}$ where Z_i is an impedance associated with the i^{th} current injection electrode pair.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 16, wherein the step of computing a diagnostic includes:

calculating an average of a function $f(Z_i, Z_i^M)$ at the k^{th} finite element, the average given by

$$\langle f_k \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{n_{cl}} w_{ik} f(Z_i, Z_i^M),$$

wherein a diagnostic at the k^{th} finite element is defined to be $\langle f_k \rangle$.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein the function $f(Z_i, Z_i^M)$ is given by

$$f(Z_i, Z_i^M) = \frac{Z_i}{Z_i^M}.$$

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of claim 17, further comprising:

obtaining diagnostics at all ~~each of the other~~ finite elements, wherein the step of utilizing the diagnostic includes:

averaging the diagnostics at each of the plurality of finite elements to find an averaged diagnostic $\langle f \rangle$; and

calculating a second averaged diagnostic, $\langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle$, corresponding to a homologous body part.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim 19, wherein the step of utilizing the diagnostic further includes calculating a difference $\langle f \rangle - \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle$, wherein a [[the]] quantity $|\langle f \rangle - \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle|$ is indicative of a [[the]] possibility of disease in the body part or the homologous body part.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method of claim 19, wherein the step of utilizing the diagnostic further includes calculating a quantity

$$\frac{\langle f \rangle - \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle}{\frac{1}{2}(\langle f \rangle + \langle f_{\text{homo}} \rangle)}$$

that is indicative of a [[the]] possibility of disease in the body part or the homologous body part.

Claims 22-42 (canceled).